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Letter dated 4 April 2001 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Kuwait to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government and with reference to the letter dated 20 August 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to you (S/2000/821) and to its annex, which concern the negotiations to be conducted by Kuwait and the Islamic Republic of Iran on the delimitation of the continental shelf, I have the honour to state as follows:

Kuwait and the Islamic Republic of Iran are both independent, fully sovereign States and, in accordance with the principles firmly established in international relations and international law for the regulation of matters relating to all aspects of bilateral relations and common interests in such a manner as to advance the worthy principles of the United Nations, they have the right to enter into negotiations together on the delimitation of the shared continental shelf.

Such negotiations are not necessarily required to take place on the basis of agreement among all the States that have rights over the continental shelf in the region.

That maritime areas of one State should be adjacent to the continental shelf of two other countries does not prevent those two countries from concluding a bilateral agreement.

Any agreement on the delimitation of maritime areas between two countries will take account of the points where the maritime boundaries of other, neighbouring States begin and end.

The negotiations that have taken place among a number of States in the region on the delimitation of the continental shelf in the light of which agreements have been concluded between them in this regard were also conducted on a bilateral basis.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bader Mohammad E. **Al-Awdi**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

01-32080 (E) 060401 060401